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XX Please address all future correspondence to:

**Customer # 41161**  
**Dugan & Dugan, PC**  
**55 South Broadway**  
**Tarrytown, NY 10591**

Date of Deposit: April 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brian M. Dugan  
Registration No. 41,720  
(914) 332-9081



PATENTS  
7163/SYNX/SYNX/JW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Michael R. Rice, Robert B. Lowrance, Martin  
R. Elliott, Jeffrey C. Hudgens and Eric A.  
Englhardt

Serial No. : 10/764,982

Filed : January 26, 2004

For : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSPORTING  
SUBSTRATE CARRIERS

Group Art Unit : 3651

Customer No. : 41161

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97,  
applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the  
following references:

U.S. Patent No. 3,710,923, Fromme et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,734,263, Dirks

U.S. Patent No. 3,815,723, Wright et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,901,376, Dardaine et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,990,569, Aiuola

U.S. Patent No. 4,029,194, Feurstein et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,033,403, Seaton et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,040,302, Katarao  
U.S. Patent No. 4,044,886, Sender  
U.S. Patent No. 4,261,236, Verjux  
U.S. Patent No. 4,266,652, Bald  
U.S. Patent No. 4,340,137, Foster  
U.S. Patent No. 4,450,950, Foote, Jr.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,506,779, Seragnoli  
U.S. Patent No. 4,524,858, Maxey  
U.S. Patent No. 4,549,647, Cosse  
U.S. Patent No. 4,585,126, Paddock et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,603,770, Hartness  
U.S. Patent No. 4,667,809, Raybuck  
U.S. Patent No. 4,680,919, Hirama et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,693,359, Mattei et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,759,439, Hartlepp  
U.S. Patent No. 4,765,453, Bucher  
U.S. Patent No. 4,813,528, Hartlepp  
U.S. Patent No. 4,830,180, Ferguson et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,850,102, Hironaka et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,854,440, Laube et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,869,637, deGroot  
U.S. Patent No. 4,898,373, Newsome

U.S. Patent No. 5,086,909, Powell, Jr.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,099,896, Ritola  
U.S. Patent No. 5,113,992, Sadamori  
U.S. Patent No. 5,123,518, Pfaff  
U.S. Patent No. 3,710,921, Petiet  
U.S. Patent No. 3,722,656, Loomis, Jr. et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,135,102, Sjogren et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,184,712, Leybold et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,667,056, Kimmet  
U.S. Patent No. 5,207,309, Simpkin et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,226,211, Jones  
U.S. Patent No. 5,231,926, Williams et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,269,119, Tolson  
U.S. Patent No. 5,275,275, Boldrini et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,439,091, Mason  
U.S. Patent No. 5,558,198, Juarez  
U.S. Patent No. 5,617,994, McTaggart  
U.S. Patent No. 5,628,614, Pazdernik et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,563,327, Buday, Jr. et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,823,319, Resnik et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 6,092,979, Miselli  
U.S. Patent No. 6,223,887 B1, Andou  
U.S. Patent No. 6,227,345 B1, Miyamoto  
U.S. Patent No. 6,435,331 B1, Olson et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,511,065 B1, Cote et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,581,750 B1, Tweedy et al.

Foreign Art Reference No. JP 63020151 A2 (Japan)

These references are also listed on the accompanying  
Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449).

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this  
patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dugan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian M. Dugan, Esq.  
Registration No. 41,720  
Dugan & Dugan, PC  
Attorneys for Applicants  
(914) 332-9081

Dated: April 20, 2005  
Tarrytown, New York

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office

Docket No.:

7163/SYNX/SYNX/JW

Serial No.:

10/764,982

## LIST OF RELEVANT ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant(s):

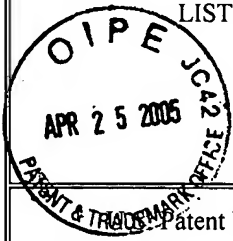
Michael Robert Rice et al.

Filing Date:

January 24, 2004

Group:

3651



## U.S. Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	3,710,923	01/16/73	Fromme et al.			
	AB	3,734,263	05/22/73	Dirks			
	AC	3,815,723	06/11/74	Wright et al.			
	AD	3,901,376	08/26/75	Dardaine et al.			
	AE	3,990,569	11/09/76	Aiuola			
	AF	4,029,194	06/14/77	Feurstein et al.			
	AG	4,033,403	07/05/77	Seaton et al.			
	AH	4,040,302	08/09/77	Katarao			
	AI	4,044,886	08/30/77	Sender			
	AJ	4,261,236	04/14/81	Verjux			
	AK	4,266,652	05/12/81	Bald			

## Foreign Patent Documents

## Translation

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	AL	JP 63020151 A2	01/27/88	Japan			X (Abstract only)	
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

Examiner

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office  <b>LIST OF RELEVANT ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)					Docket No.: 7163/SYNX/SYNX/JW		Serial No.: 10/764,982	
					Applicant(s): Michael Robert Rice et al.			
					Filing Date: January 24, 2004		Group: 3651	

U.S. Patent Documents							
*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
BA	4,340,137	07/20/82	Foster				
BB	4,450,950	05/29/84	Foote, Jr.				
BC	4,506,779	03/26/85	Seragnoli				
BD	4,524,858	06/25/85	Maxey				
BE	4,549,647	10/29/85	Cosse				
BF	4,585,126	04/29/86	Paddock et al.				
BG	4,603,770	08/05/86	Hartness				
BH	4,667,809	05/26/87	Raybuck				
BI	4,680,919	07/21/87	Hirama et al.				
BJ	4,693,359	09/15/87	Mattei et al.				
BK	4,759,439	07/26/88	Hartlepp				

Foreign Patent Documents							Translation	
Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No		
BL								
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U.S. Patent Documents							
*Examiner Initial	CA	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	CA	4,765,453	08/23/88	Bucher			
	CB	4,813,528	03/21/89	Hartlepp			
	CC	4,830,180	05/16/89	Ferguson et al.			
	CD	4,850,102	07/25/89	Hironaka et al.			
	CE	4,854,440	08/08/89	Laube et al.			
	CF	4,869,637	09/26/89	deGroot			
	CG	4,898,373	02/06/90	Newsome			
	CH	5,086,909	02/11/92	Powell, Jr.			
	CI	5,099,896	03/31/92	Ritola			
	CJ	5,113,992	05/19/92	Sadamori			
	CK	5,123,518	06/23/92	Pfaff			

Foreign Patent Documents							Translation	
	CL	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	CL							
	CM							
	CN							
	CO							
	CP							

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	CS	
	CT	

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U.S. Patent Documents							
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	DA	3,710,921	Petiet				
	DB	3,722,656	Loomis, Jr. et al.				
	DC	5,135,102	Sjogren et al.				
	DO	5,184,712	Leypold et al.				
	DE	5,667,056	Kimmet				
	DF	5,207,309	Simpkin et al.				
	DG	5,226,211	Jones				
	DH	5,231,926	Williams et al.				
	DI	5,269,119	Tolson				
	DJ	5,275,275	Boldrini et al.				
	DK	5,439,091	Mason				

Foreign Patent Documents							Translation	
Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No		
DL								
DM								
DN								
DO								
DP								

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U.S. Patent Documents							
*Examiner Initial	EA	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	EA	5,558,198	09/24/96	Juarez			
	EB	5,617,944	04/08/97	McTaggart			
	EC	5,628,614	05/13/97	Pazdernik et al.			
	ED	5,653,327	08/05/97	Buday, Jr. et al.			
	EE	5,823,319	10/20/98	Resnick et al.			
	EF	6,092,979	07/25/00	Miselli			
	EG	6,223,887 B1	05/01/01	Andou			
	EH	6,227,345 B1	05/08/01	Miyamoto			
	EI	6,435,331 B1	08/20/02	Olson et al.			
	EJ	6,511,065 B1	01/28/03	Cote et al.			
	EK	6,581,750 B1	06/24/03	Tweedy et al.			

Foreign Patent Documents							Translation	
	EL	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	EL							
	EM							
	EN							
	EO							
	EP							

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